

**Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our  
56' Ocean Yacht.**

# *Somewhere on the Water*

Our Great Loop  
Sunday, August 10, 2025  
Charlevoix, MI to Traverse City, MI

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

There's something undeniably magical about Charlevoix, Michigan—like stepping into a quiet little fairytale tucked along the water.

We started our day on bikes, riding through peaceful streets toward the famous mushroom houses. Each one is unique and whimsical, with curved roofs and storybook charm. I was very nervous about being intrusive to the homeowners, so I did not get too close or take too many photos. Having lived onboard a unique yacht for 5-years, I understand how invasive it feels to have uninvited lookie-loos at your door yard and being asked for tours from strangers. Of course, it comes with the territory that something so fantastic and charming as these homes are on display in a public neighborhood; I still wanted to be as respectful as possible.

Afterward, we wandered down Main Street. There are many shops open (even on a Sunday morning) and cozy cafés. Everything felt so welcoming and relaxed, the kind of place where you lose track of time without even trying.

We hopped back on our bikes and made our way across the bridge toward Depot Beach. The ride was easy and scenic, with hardly any traffic on a Sunday morning. From there, we looped around and eventually made our way back toward town, stopping at the Weathervane Restaurant. Once a 19<sup>th</sup>-century gristmill, it was converted by Earl Young in the 1950s and is now one of his masterpieces. Inside the adjoining inn, the Weathervane Terrace Inn, Earl Young's largest hotel, we found fireplaces that are reminiscent of those also found in the homes.

What stood out most about Charlevoix was how effortlessly enjoyable everything felt. We spotted deer along the way and admired the most quaint, cottage-style homes. The marina was perfectly situated in the center of it all,

making it easy to explore. Charlevoix has a peaceful, storybook quality that's hard to describe but easy to love.

We truly loved everything about it. It will be one of our loop's highlights.

A fellow Nebo user spotted us on their 'home turf' and offered to help us out with anything, ride to the store, etc. How nice is that!! They also said they got pics of Valkyrie going through the Charlevoix bridge. We were able to freeze frame a few shots of Valkyrie and of us on our bikes!  
On YouTube: Bridgecam Charlvoix Cam

---

### *Fun Facts:*

Charlevoix was once home to the nation's first nuclear power plant, Big Rock Point, which operated from 1962 to 1997. Google

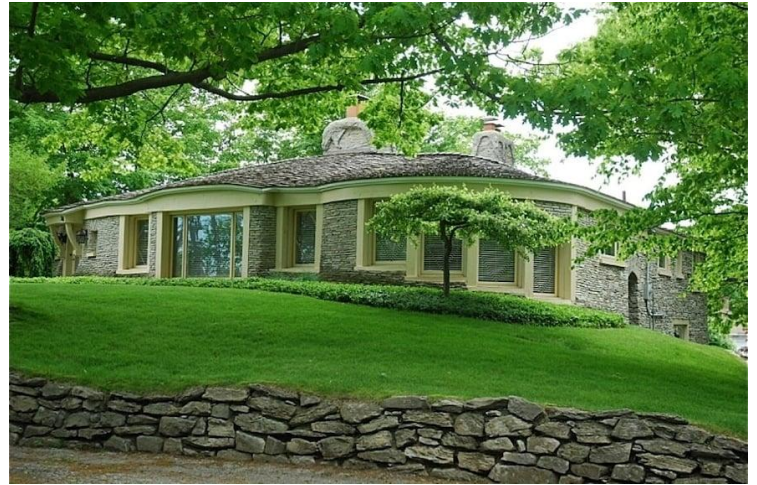
In 1976, Charlevoix baked a 17,420-pound cherry pie, setting a record, and the pan is still a photo-op attraction. Google

### *Charlevoix is most prominently known for Earl Young's " Mushroom Houses."*

Earl Young (1889–1975) was an American architect and builder known for designing the whimsical "mushroom houses" of Charlevoix, Michigan. His work is celebrated for blending stone, wood, and landscape into organic, storybook-like homes that challenge traditional architectural norms and remain a regional landmark.

Cultural impact and legacy: Earl Young's "mushroom houses" have become a central attraction in Charlevoix, drawing tourists and architectural enthusiasts from around the world. His creations are compared to the work of Frank Lloyd Wright for their organic integration of environment and structure, though Young's approach was more whimsical and intuitive. Today, preservation efforts celebrate his enduring influence on vernacular American architecture and regional identity in northern Michigan.

<https://www.visitcharlevoix.com/Earl-Young/>



Some images obtained from Google

Depot Beach offers an amazing view of Lake Charlevoix, and is home to an historic railroad station. Lake Charlevoix is the state's third-largest inland lake and has 56 miles of shoreline.

### *Fun Facts:*

The area around Charlevoix became a popular summer resort starting in the late 1870s with the establishment of [Bay View](#) in 1877, the Charlevoix Summer Resort (now the [Belvedere Club](#)) in 1878, and the Chicago Summer Resort (now the Chicago Club) in 1880. In response to the increase in traffic, in the early 1890s the [Chicago and West Michigan Railroad](#) extended its line from [Traverse City](#) north to [Petoskey](#). In 1891 the railroad located two sites for planned depots in Charlevoix: this one on the north side of town near the Chicago Resort, and a second one (now demolished) on the south side of town near the Charlevoix Resort.<sup>[2]</sup>



In 1892, the railroad contracted with the [Grand Rapids](#) firm of Pelton & Company to construct this depot. Work began in May and was completed by July, with the first trains running into Charlevoix in

June. In 1900, the Chicago and West Michigan Railroad merged with two other railroads to create the [Pere Marquette Railroad](#). The railroad promoted Charlevoix and other northern Michigan towns as summer destinations, and ran an increased number of trains into Charlevoix. In addition, an interurban two-car train ran between the north and south Charlevoix stations up to seven times daily.<sup>[2]</sup>

The high level of service to Charlevoix continued through [World War II](#). However, the increase in automobile use in the late 1940s and 1950s cut into railroad revenues. The Pere Marquette merged into the [Chesapeake and Ohio Railway](#) in 1947, and service to Charlevoix was gradually scaled back. Passenger train service to Charlevoix was completely discontinued in 1962. Rail freight runs continued until 1982, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway abandoned all its lines in northern Michigan.<sup>[2]</sup>

In the 1980s, the Charlevoix Yacht Club occupied the building.<sup>[2]</sup> In 1992, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pew donated the Charlevoix Railroad Station to the Charlevoix Historical Society. The Depot building was restored by the society, and is now a venue for Historical Society events and programs, and is available for rental

*Even More Fun Facts: (I am full of them today 😊)*

Lake Michigan is one of North America's five Great Lakes. Bordered by four U.S. states—Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana—Lake Michigan is the only Great Lake located entirely within the United States.

Stretching over 300 miles long, it's the second-largest of the Great Lakes by volume and the third-largest by surface area. At its deepest point, Lake Michigan plunges more than 900 feet—deep enough to hide shipwrecks, underwater landscapes, and centuries of history beneath its surface.

Lake Michigan is home to some of the largest freshwater sand dunes in the world.

Lake Michigan contains over a quadrillion gallons of water—that's enough to cover the entire United States in nearly a foot of water.

There are thousands of shipwrecks resting at the bottom, preserved by the cold freshwater. Some are so well preserved that you can still see masts, cargo, and even steering wheels.

The lake also has its own "Bermuda Triangle." It's called the Lake Michigan Triangle, an area where ships, planes, and people have mysteriously disappeared over the years.

And in winter, parts of the lake can freeze into stunning ice formations—creating otherworldly landscapes of ice caves and frozen waves along the shoreline. chatgpt

---

We left Charlevoix this morning after making the 11 am bridge opening. We made our way back into Lake Michigan towards Traverse City. It did not take long before we found our way to Grand Traverse Bay.

The bay extends roughly 32 miles inland from Lake Michigan and covers about 600 square miles. It is divided into two distinct arms—the East Arm and the West Arm—by the 17-mile-long Old Mission Peninsula. The Leelanau Peninsula forms the bay's western edge, while the Antrim and Grand Traverse counties border the eastern shore. Google.

Our chart shows the route along the West Arm of the bay. →



Marina Entrance ↙



We followed the West Arm into Traverse City. We arrived at our slip at the Duncan L. Clinch Marina and docked portside to with little issue. This marina is owned and managed by the city and is located within walking distance of downtown.

We ran into a bit of an electrical hiccup while settling into the slip. The closest pedestals were already occupied by the boat next to us. It had claimed two electric pedestals using all 50-amp plugs. Mark initially tried to stretch the portside cord to the next available hookup, but it just



Our slip.

Mark is getting us settled in at the dock.



wouldn't reach. That meant he needed to use the starboard cord.

That, of course, turned into a two-person operation. Mark carefully made his way along Valkyrie's starboard toe rail, holding the cord while I fed it out, both of us trying very hard not to let it slip into the water. Thankfully, he's got this maneuver down to a science. As dramatic as it sounds, that part actually went pretty smoothly. The real issue? The portside cord refused to retract. On an already hot and humid day, it quickly became a losing battle. After giving it a solid effort, Mark decided it was best to regroup and tackle it later.

Once our Walmart order arrived and we wrapped up a simple dinner of omelets, we headed out to explore downtown. A short walk led us to North Bar's rooftop, drawn in by the sound of a live musician. Naturally, about ten minutes after we ordered our drinks, the set ended—perfect timing.

My vodka cranberry was perfectly fine, but Mark's painkiller was...something else. The bartender mixed what amounted to a shot's worth of ingredients, poured it into a mason jar packed with ice and an excessive fruit garnish, and called it a day. We've seen plenty of painkillers made properly, and this was

not it. For an \$18 cocktail—especially one known for its strength and signature dusting of nutmeg—it was a major letdown. Easily the worst one we've come across.



Between the underwhelming drinks and the threat of incoming rain, we decided to call it a night and head back to Valkyrie. We were in by 9 p.m.

### *Daily Summary:*

Departed from Charlevoix @ 10:36 am

Arrived at Traverse City @ 3:32 pm

Days cruised: 54      Days on the loop: 75

Hours traveled: 4 hrs 55 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 39.26 for the day (1,314.22 total miles)

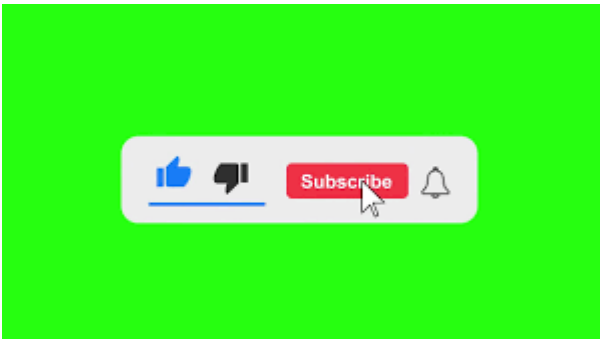
Average Speed 8 knots

Weather: Sunny, hot & humid. In the 80's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Charlevoix was amazing. Marina has all the offerings and is right downtown.

#of locks we went through: (73 total locks)

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/nwPvJVtDWyk>



Time is unrenewable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!